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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
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May 3, 1991

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist *HS*

RE: Reclamation Inspection, Small Fry Mine Site, M/037/022, San Juan County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 2, 1991

Time of Inspection: 3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Conditions: Windy, cloudy, cool

Participants: Bob Shumway, W. K. Enterprises; Sal Venticinque, BLM; Holland Shepherd, DOGM

I met with Mr. Bob Shumway and Sal Venticinque at the Small Fry site, to inspect the reclamation work that has recently been done by Mr. Shumway of W. K. Enterprises. The operator contacted me regarding to complete reclamation of the Small Fry site and wanted me to evaluate the site for release on the basis of reclamation completion.

The site consists of about 6 acres of disturbance and was partially reclaimed 2 years ago. Mr. Shumway, at that time, wanted to reclaim portions of the site to bring the site down to a Small Mine Operation status. Mr. Shumway has indicated to me that he is through with the site, is in need of the money held as surety, and wants to have the site evaluated for complete release instead of partial.

The operator has regraded and reseeded all of the site except for a small 1 1/2 acre portion which includes the mine access road, staging areas and portals. Mr. Shumway indicated to me that he wants to leave several portals or holes intact and not reclaimed. There are 5 portals or openings associated with this mine site; one is an adit that goes back into the mountain and accesses the mine workings. The other 4 are offices or shops that have been dug a little way into the mountain to serve as storage areas or working areas. Mr. Shumway wants to leave these areas intact and not reclaim. He claims that because it is patented property, he has a right to leave these and also he has a use for these areas even after the site is no longer of use as a mine. He hopes to leave equipment in these openings for future farm work. The Small Fry mine is, for the most part, patented property. A small portion of the Small Fry is on BLM land.

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Mr. Sal Venticinque of the Grand Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management, indicated to me during the inspection that he was satisfied with the reclamation the operator has done on the BLM portion and was willing to advise a release from that portion of the mine site. As far as the state is concerned, I am in concurrence with Mr. Venticinque on the areas of the mine that have been regraded and seeded. The operator has apparently done all that he can do. However, on the area of the site that the operator wants to leave unreclaimed, I still have questions as to whether or not this is legitimate to do so.

During our inspection we noticed that the gate to the underground workings had been forced open and was no longer locked. Mr. Shumway indicated that he was going to block up this portal by backfilling and grading. He does not intend to leave this open. However, the other four openings, as I mentioned, he wants to remain accessible.

I indicated to Mr. Shumway that the portion of the site that had been reclaimed and touched up already, we could give him a release on; however, the other portion of the site that was not reclaimed, we could not at this time, and we would have to take that under discussion before we would decide what to do with it.

The vegetation success at this site has been very poor. The portions of the site that were reclaimed earlier were seeded two years ago. Very little plants growing from that seeding are apparent at the site. Rabbitbrush is appearing across the site and some sparse weedy species. The drought that the area has been experiencing over the past two or three years has been a major factor in poor success in revegetation at this site. Mr. Shumway did indicate to me that he reseeded the site about 3 weeks ago. He went back over areas that he had seeded earlier. Because this portion of the site has been reseeded twice, I would recommend complete release of these portions and that no further work be asked to be done.

On those areas of the site which have not been reclaimed (adits/portals, staging area and road), I recommend that the operator be asked to reclaim these areas before any bond release. If the operator will reclaim these remaining areas, I would recommend complete bond release. These areas pose a public safety hazard and an environmental problem. The adits need to be sealed off permanently and the remaining steep slopes and road area creating an erosion problem on site.

jb  
cc: Wayne Hedberg  
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